



Meet Barry and Lisa – the team that brings you the '44 Club News'

For more than fifteen years Barry Russell and Lisa Clunie have designed, and project managed the 'SMBP 44 Club News'. Both have strong Shell and BP connections – Barry worked for Shell for many years and Lisa for BP. Their professionalism and reliability ensures that our magazine looks good and reaches us on time. Their story begins on Page 4.

Useful Contacts

The 44 Club – For anyone who worked for Shell-Mex and BP

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44 Club News

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– For Shell Pensioners

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The BP Society

– For BP Pensioners

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Please advise the Club Office
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of your Email address.

You can also do this by visiting
the Club website:
<http://www.44club.org.uk/>



Welcome

It was a pleasant surprise to be invited by Paddy Briggs to make a contribution to the Spring issue of 44 Club News and I readily accepted. It was equally surprising, 26 years ago, to be invited by our then Secretary, Ken Froy, to become Editor of this journal, but I wasn't at all keen and I declined. I had other plans for my newly-acquired early retirement. I felt that 35 years with SMBP, Shell UK and Shell International was a reasonable innings and a return to Shell-Mex House within six months certainly didn't feature amongst those plans. But I underestimated Ken's powers of persuasion and my first edition appeared in March 1992; my last – 36 issues later – came out in December 2000, when I handed over the pen to Mike McMonagle, who did such a splendid job for the next ten years.

So here we are again with the first issue of 2018 – the Spring edition – and the start of a new year with all the promise and hope that this brings. The only thing is that, with our current Parliament in disarray (always assuming that Parliament hasn't altered radically since I wrote this) and governments around the world apparently intent on self-immolation, it's not altogether clear what promise and hope there may be. Still, I've always been an optimist (working in Public Affairs you had to be!) and I'm glad to welcome Spring, no less confident that, although promise and hope may take a few knocks, they won't be dented irreparably. For a start, Clive Mather's New Year message was pretty positive about the Shell Contributory Pension Fund – a reassuring start to the year!

Furthermore, Jonathon Kohn's announcement of the new Shell Pensioners Programme was welcome news. The dissolution of the PLR team was less welcome – in my view – and this new scheme will certainly help to fill the gap. The SMBP Retired Staff Liaison Scheme began in 1962, soon to be followed by many other leading companies, which introduced their own, similar schemes. The PLRs did a brilliant job and their contributions to the pages of 44 Club News were invaluable. They knew more about our pensioners than anyone and they unearthed the most remarkable stories about the extraordinary range of voluntary work, second careers and fascinating hobbies in which pensioners become involved. They also brought cases of difficulty and hardship to our notice in the Benevolence Association – very often cases for which individual pensioners might have been hesitant to seek help themselves. All being well, the Pensioner Programme will offer an important service and I welcome it.

Quite apart from the PLRs' help, I think I was exceptionally lucky to have been Editor for the last decade of the 20th Century. The nineties saw times of change, stirring times indeed, of which the 44 Club had its own share of historic events. 1993, for example, saw the 60th anniversary of the opening of Shell-Mex House. Just as well we celebrated that, because we would no longer be in residence for the 70th anniversary in 2003!

It was also in 1993 that Graham Smailes suggested to me that an historical account of SMBP since its formation ought to be recorded by people with relevant knowledge and experience. The result was a series of articles in 44 Club News, which were enthusiastically received by the readership. So much so that it was decided they should be given the greater permanence they deserved by the publication of a book. John Higdon, one of my illustrious predecessors as Editor, had in fact been employed by SMBP at its birth in 1932, so he, together with David Burchell and Tony Page, were encouraged and cajoled by Ken Froy and me (with some strong-arm help from our Chairman, Brian Bowden!) into writing 'A

History of Shell-Mex and B.P. Limited', which we nurtured through to its publication. It sold out at once. Ken and I were subsequently 'ennobled' as Vice-Presidents of the 44 Association by Brian!

Another piece of history was the sale of Shell-Mex House in 1999, following much speculation and rumour about its future. As it was built on the site of the former Hotel Cecil, it was thought that it might be reincarnated as a rival to its next-door neighbour, The Savoy, but – probably to the Savoy's relief – this didn't happen. What, inevitably, did happen was an office move for the 44 Club to Shell Centre. The difference between our former home and the more staid atmosphere of Shell Centre came as a bit of a jolt but, once we had found the way to the coffee machines, I think we settled there pretty well. Ken Froy and his amazing team of Greta Chandler and Len Evans became great friends and we got on well in our confined space. I can only say I feel extremely fortunate to have avoided the move to Canary Wharf!

In the Autumn issue, Mike Howard (one of my loyal contributors to the Letters columns) is quoted as saying that he worked for 'great bosses'. He wasn't the only one; in fact I can't recall a single one of my bosses for whom I didn't have the greatest respect and even affection. Sadly, of course, many are no longer with us. We bade farewell in our pages to such 44 Club stalwarts as Sir John Greenborough, Tom King, John Higdon and Dr Ian Mackintosh amongst many other notable friends and colleagues.

So, all in all, my initial reluctance to accept Ken Froy's invitation turned out to be cock-eyed. I enjoyed every minute!

Barrie Dugdale

Welcome New Members

Mrs Janice Aslin - Yarmouth (IoW)

Mrs Susan Croucher - Hemel
Hempstead

Mr Anthony Sewell - Bridport

Mrs Margaret Stevens - Sleaford

This year's Reunion and AGM

Still time to book for the Reunion/AGM which has now been moved one day forward to **Wednesday 25th April** and we would love to see a good turnout. A great chance to meet up with old friends. Details enclosed. To those members who have booked but cannot now attend on the revised date, refund arrangements have been made. We are very sorry about the change which was due to an Act of God (or Shell, which amounts to the same thing).

Website

The Club website is currently under renovation and is temporarily not available. The next edition of the Club News will include details of the new site. Watch this space!



Executive Committee meeting

An Executive Committee meeting of the Club will take place before the AGM on 25th April. If there are any issues that members would like the Committee to consider feel free to let the Secretary, Colin Hill, know.

Barry Russell and Lisa Clunie – keeping the Club News on track

Only the very sharpest of eyes would have spotted the change in the 44 Club News of June 2002. There on the final page in the smallest of small types was the message 'Produced by Clunie Innovations Limited'. In the same space before that it had said 'Produced by Visual Media Services' and before that 'Produced by Shell Reprographic Services'. The initiative had been taken by new Honorary Editor Mike McMonagle to move the design and production of the magazine away from Shell's internal services and contract it out to a third party. The third party was family, however. Barry Russell had recently retired from Shell where he was a Senior Project Manager and Lisa Clunie, a Graphic Designer, who had also been a Project Manager in the same division. Fifteen years on Barry and Lisa together still make sure that the magazine looks good, reaches our readers promptly and is value for money to those who pay the bills.

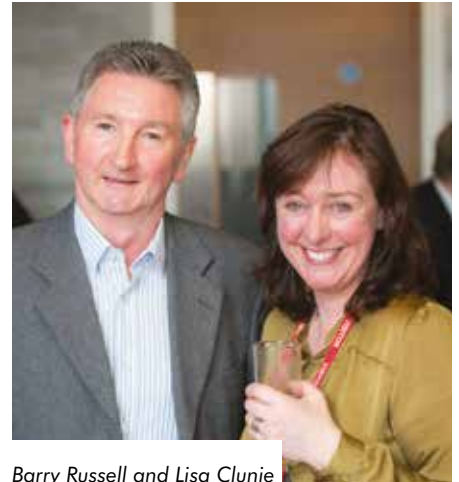
The 44 Club News belongs to the Club and all its members and is the most important means of communications to them and between them. Unlike other magazines aimed at retired staff it does not have an operating parent company and so we rarely if ever talk about what Shell or BP are doing now, unless that has an impact on our membership. If you want to know about Shell or BP today other sources are available! But although the magazine is a bit of a cottage industry with content entirely from volunteers we do need to be as professional as we can be in what we do. That is where Barry and Lisa's service is so vital. When the Editor met



with them to discuss this article I was surprised by a number of things like, for example, Barry's hands-on role in keeping the timetable of the magazine on plan and Lisa's breath-taking skills with mind-blowing computers and their software!

Barry Russell joined Shell Expro in 1972 and throughout his 30 year career he was always involved in print and printing. The amount of documentation produced by Shell is and was enormous (no surprise there!) and the in-house printing and reprographics unit was a busy and major operation. (Shell Expro was an independent unit of the Shell Printing operation at that time). Whether in Shell Centre or Shell-Mex House Barry was at the heart of this. He had a good feel, he says, for design matters which meant that he could oversee print production with a critical eye. He could spot if something didn't look right. Project Management for something as detailed as large-scale print production requires enormous attention to detail and Barry has that skill in spades. He recalls that the 1970s were an "exciting time" in Expro - events such as being awarded good drilling concessions, finding oil and gas or piping the first oil ashore from a field were usually followed by a huge celebration. And why not! Office-based staff such as Barry were also taken on field trips, the most memorable of which was a visit to a North Sea Gas Platform off the coast of Lowestoft. A flight in a Sikorsky helicopter followed by a tour and lunch on the platform was an amazing experience.

The work for which Barry was best known was the production of the 'Annual Report'. This was almost an all-the-year-round role – each report took nine months from start to finish. At its peak it consisted of a series of 5



Barry Russell and Lisa Clunie at an SMBP 44 Club AGM

reports varying in size from 48 pages to nearly 300 with a combined print run of well over a million copies. Barry remembers how he carried out research into various print paper products as part of his work on The Annual Report. 'Sustainable Development' was growing in significance so it was seen as essential that Shell was ahead of the game by using Eco-friendly paper for their reports. For Barry this involved trips to various Paper Mills in the UK and Europe, the most memorable being a



visit to a vast Mill complex in Finland to a company that had their own sea port and railway depot and 'farmed' trees in an adjacent forest. As part of the guided tour he was taken to see the trees being harvested, standing in a forest 'in the snow' listening to a presentation from

the host who was describing the process on a flip chart while also watching a huge machine nearby cut and trim the trees in minutes – it was surreal!



There are a number of stages involved in producing each issue of the 44 Club magazine, and Barry Russell's role is to project manage these different elements of the production process to ensure that we publish the magazine on time and to the best quality possible.

The pre-production phase involves producing a schedule and establishing exactly what will be required - the magazine is either 16 or 20 pages and there are different requirements dependent on which issue is being produced. A number of people have input into these schedules, including the Editor, Lisa Clunie the designer and Colin Hill, the 44 Club Secretary.

The design and artwork stage begins when Lisa Clunie receives the draft content for the magazine, from the editor and Colin Hill. There are five proof readers (who are all active members of the club and who volunteer their time to carry out this task). Lisa sends all the proofs out and collates the corrections. When the artwork is approved Lisa uploads a digital artwork file to the printer. The printer produces a high resolution PDF proof which guarantees the integrity of the artwork,



and after this final stage Barry, after careful checking, gives the go-ahead to print.

The magazine is printed on a 4-colour process printing press, usually onto SRA2 size sheets, this produces 4 x A-4 size pages on each side of the sheet. The printed sheets are then sent for finishing. They will be collated, folded, stitched (stapled) and then trimmed to the finished A-4 size booklet.

The final process in the production is despatch - the magazines are sent to the Mailing contractor where members' addresses are printed as address labels. They are then, after a final check, handed over to the Royal Mail for despatch.

Lisa Clunie studied Graphic Design at University and her first job, in 1988, was with BP at Sunbury where she worked on a wide range of design projects including Chemicals, Shipping and Oil. Although she left BP after three years she has a deferred BP Pension "Not a lot" she says "but nice"! At the time in the late 1980s graphic design was still mostly done on drawing



boards. Although these were soon to be replaced by computer aided design Lisa is glad that she had the drawing board apprenticeship. She says that she feels she understands design far better having put pencil to paper as well as used a mouse. That said there are no drawing boards in sight in her high tech modern office! The Club News is entirely digitally assembled.

After BP, Lisa's next job in 1991 was in Shell - a perfect background you might think for somebody who would one day work for the 44 Club! She did similar design work initially to what she had done at BP but in a time of rapid change Lisa moved up the hierarchy to become, like Barry, a Project Manager. She then left to start a family but still worked as a freelancer at Shell two days a week and as the two girls grew up Lisa started to do more and more freelance work – including, back in 2002, working with the newly retired Barry on the Club



News. Lisa's graphic design skills are considerable and, as we have seen, she fully embraces the new technology. She describes her current role in her business as managing a "...team who can help you with all aspects of your design and digital work from brochures, literature, exhibitions, point of sale and websites to marketing and PR. Specialising in Branding from the brand message, brand strategy, brand architecture to logo design - the full branding service".

Barry and Lisa are a strong team with complementary skills and the same attention to detail. For a volunteer organisation like the SMBP 44 Club it is vital to have good people to work with on our important projects – especially if they don't come with a burden of rules, regulations, swingeing overheads and superimposed standards. Their Shell (and BP) backgrounds help but essentially it is their skills and attention to detail which keeps the Club News rolling along. We are lucky to have them. **PSB**



Buncefield – fifty years on

Background

The site on which Buncefield was constructed was used during the Second World War to provide fuel for the bombers at RAF Bovingdon. The new installation, which cost £2.5m had (according to the 'Magazine of the Shell-Mex and B.P. Group') an 'overall storage capacity of over 100,000 tons and a planned annual throughput of 1.2m tons'. It was opened in 1968 after a pipeline was constructed to link two Shell refineries in Stanlow at Ellesmere Port in Cheshire, and Shell Haven on the Thames Estuary at Stanford-le-Hope in Thurrock. There was an 'Open Day' in September (see report from the Magazine) The pipeline carried 'white oil' products, such as motor spirit and middle distillates. Along with Buncefield, a number of other pipeline-fed installations were built at the same time. These installations were always shared by the oil companies who benefited together from the lower costs compared with other transportation methods. However, when they opened, such depots, including Buncefield, sometimes became difficult to manage from an industrial relations perspective. Drivers and other operatives from different oil companies, but members of the same Trades Union, usually the Transport and General Workers Union, were able to coordinate their industrial action more effectively by being on the same site as one another. In 1990 a further pipeline was completed, linking the site to the Lindsey Oil Refinery in Humberside.

Before the 2005 fire, which devastated over a quarter of the site, the terminal was the fifth largest oil depot in the UK with pipelines to Humberside, Merseyside and Heathrow and Gatwick airports radiating from it. It reopened in 2008.

David Roberts

The building of Buncefield was part of a major much needed programme to modernise the storage and distribution network in the 1960s which was at a

time of substantial growth in the demand for petroleum products. Buncefield started by SMBP joining a consortium of oil companies to build a pipeline linking the oil refineries on the Mersey and Thames.

It was not at all certain that the laying of the pipeline and building associated storage would receive the backing of the oil companies' boards. The only viable storage sites with access to a new cross country pipeline were in the green belt. Also at the time British Rail under Dr Beeching was endeavouring to capture oil freight for which there was plenty of railway owned land suitable for storage in urban areas. Also, a prominent member of the pipeline consortium, Esso, withdrew, with no one willing to take up its share to keep the scheme going forward, SMBP had to take up the Esso commitment. Furthermore, there was no engineering expertise in the UK capable of building the pipeline and a team had to be recruited from the USA. In the end, the formation of the consortium, United Kingdom Oil Pipelines (known as UKOP) was approved. Phil Hallam of SMBP was appointed to smooth over the different cultural aspects of the American pipeline team and their British clients.

Whereas the Pipe-lines Act 1962 gives operators compulsory powers to obtain easements, there was no such legislation relating to storage associated with the pipeline. Buncefield in the green belt was identified but its zoning for oil storage was vigorously opposed by the local planning authority and conservation societies and so there had to be a public enquiry. However, after a long and passionate hearing, the Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government gave his consent in 1966. There was a similar situation for Kingsbury.



OPEN DAY AT BUNCEFIELD

Headed by Deputy Mayor of Hamel Hempstead Corporation, Councillor J E Wood, the men who make the town tick turned out for a sight-seeing tour of Buncefield Oil Terminals on 17 September. These visitors each had a special interest in this first of the two terminal complexes which will be fed by the 250-mile Thames to Mersey underground pipeline. They were the Borough council men who had co-operated on sign-posting, roads, drainage, fire precautions and the thousand and one other requirements of an industrial newcomer to the town.

Manager, P J Hallam of United Kingdom Oil Pipelines Ltd, welcomed the visitors at nearby Langley Hotel before they crossed the red-yellow and blue-labelled, for the site, to look and to listen to the identified roar of spirit running through the valve manifold.

Shell-Mex and B.P. tankers, including the big 80's, were filling up under the gantries where we are providing store facilities for Petrofina until their storage tanks are completed next year. The tanks and compounds of Mobil and Texaco, Regent, who also participate in the enterprise, were pointed out by Terminal Manager Tommy Thompson.

Altogether more than £2,500,000 has been invested by the partnership on a terminal with an overall capacity in excess of 100,000 tons, and a planned annual throughput of 1,200,000 tons of motor spirit, kerosene and gas oils - and everyone who saw it was rightly impressed.



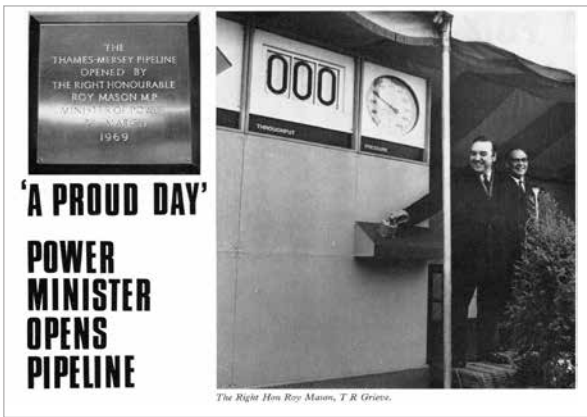
The pipeline reception area being explained to an attentive audience.

Ray Cole, Buncefield's Assistant Manager, explaining a technical point to the visitors.

The commissioning of the pipeline in 1969 (see report of the opening ceremony in March) saw the beginning of shared facilities, not only by consortium members, but other oil companies as well. The Pipelines Act not only conferred powers on the operators but also placed duties on them. New pipelines had to be made available to any other operator to ship products and the tariff had to be reasonable such as no more than two thirds of the going rail carriage rate. Although such rights did not apply to the use of storage, one of the storage sites was willing to offer any operator the use of its storage.

Buncefield started operating before the production of North Sea gas which meant that much of its trade was for commercial and residential heating and thus SMBP's peak demand was always in the winter.

The first time I heard of Buncefield was during my very first Shell-Mex and BP assignment as a Sandwich Course Trainee working at Wandsworth Terminal. A number of drivers from there left to go to their new life in the country. In retrospect, the notion that taking the collection from Lensbury, Silvertown, Shell Haven, Wandsworth etc. to the



Later when I was the Regional Personnel Relations Advisor I would make regular trips there to visit with Mel Tuck who was a character and great fun. My enduring memory of Mel was in a Regional Operations meeting where the new CEO of SMBP - Desmond Watkins - was giving a rousing speech about how we were going to decimate the competition. It had been a

late night, long morning and sumptuous lunch. And Mel was in the front row. Desmond paused at the end of a sentence like "and do you know what the competition will do in response?" The pregnant pause was broken by the loudest snore I ever heard and there was Mel, absolutely dead to the world.

Editor

My memories of Buncefield date back to the same period as Julian's - the early 1970s. I was a Group Commercial Representative in North London and all the white oil products on my 'patch' came from Buncefield. I do recall that it was a bit of an IR hotbed - the scuttlebutt was that the Installation Managers at places like Wandsworth and Silvertown encouraged their more troublesome drivers to move there! That

said I do not recall many problems and my customers got a good service. I visited the installation quite often - it wasn't that far from the northern part of my Territory in Southern Hertfordshire. I was always made welcome - the management lunches were of a high standard. It was from time to time the case that a 'delivery problem' would occur - a customer desperate for fuel for whatever reason. A phone call to the installation would usually do the trick, so long as I didn't do it too often. If it was the customer's error and Buncefield was able to help, then that was the time, after a few days, to pop in and re-sign a Sales Agreement! The lessons I learned as a Rep stood me in good stead when I was the Sales Manager for Scotland ten years later. Again my representatives and I built a close working relationship with Terminals across Scotland - helped by the encouragement of the Group Terminal Manager Dick Hiseman. Installations like Buncefield and their staff were really part of the marketing team - after all Drivers often met the customers far more frequently than the sales staff did. I think it was a strong point of SMBP and its immediate successors for sales staff to operate co-jointly with our colleagues in Operations/Distribution. A 'Happy Family' might be overstating it a bit but we were certainly all part of the same team in those distant days.

joys of the Hertfordshire countryside would somehow engender new habits was perhaps naive. And certainly Buncefield earned its tag of being a tough industrial relations climate!

Julian Dalzell

I was assigned there as a Trainee Supervisor in 1971 - so pretty early in the life of the terminal. I had the chance to work alongside some excellent supervisors. Barry Cross, who was later to become my Manager at St. Leonard's Wharf, David Hunter who went to Ipswich, and Dave Ellis were three that I recall well. Alex Pirrie was the Plant Superintendent, Bill Roche the Road Transport Manager and Frank Thompson the Terminal Manager. It was a tough environment to be sure but there was a certain excitement being there as the culture of the place was being formed.

Mission Impossible

There were a few 'Missions Impossible' in Shell-Mex House over the years but few came as close as Tom Cruise when filming the new movie 'Mission Impossible - Fallout' due for release this summer. Thanks to Mike Howard for the photo which he spotted in a national newspaper. Mike claims that his office window is visible (see arrow) - must have had a great view Mike!



News from the Branches

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering
☎ 01349 368134
✉ kpyorkie75@gmail.com

Coming up:

Lunches at the Kingsmill Hotel on the last Thursday of the Month, March to June and August to December. All welcome.

Aberdeen

Contact: Graham Walker
☎ 01651 869206
✉ mrgrahamwalker@hotmail.com

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen
☎ 0770 3578614
✉ elaine.ellen@btinternet.com
www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

Twenty members and guests gathered for our Christmas Lunch on 14th December. Once again Sarti's (Renfield Street, Glasgow) did us proud. The general consensus was that this was one of the best lunches yet! The food was absolutely delicious, the company outstanding and a good time was had by all.



Glasgow Branch

2018 started with a flurry – of snow! So much so that the January meeting had to be cancelled as conditions underfoot were decidedly dangerous. This meant that the much anticipated 'Antiques Road Show' didn't happen. We will re-schedule this for our next session. Fortunately, by February, the



Glasgow Branch



Belfast Branch

weather was much improved and nine of us gathered on 15th February to hear Christine Miller continue the story of her family history research. As always her talk and the accompanying slides were fascinating. This time she also included some Glasgow history. Using archives from The Mitchell in Glasgow Christine was able to show us photographs from times long past, including the Duke Street prison, records from the Poor House and old maps. I think we hit a record for the number of raffle prizes and most of those present went home with something. Many thanks to all who donated the prizes.

If you are reading this and thinking you would like to join us, please get in touch. You will be made very welcome. Why not come to one of our meetings as a guest before deciding whether to join? Contact details are at the beginning of this article and our website is also well worth a look (see on the left).

Coming up:

We will have a 'Summer Lunch' but details for this are still to be finalised.

Belfast

Contact: Norman Mavitty
7 Barn Hill, Donaghadee BT21 0QA.
☎ 028 9188 3445
✉ nmavitty@hotmail.com

On 8th December sixteen members made their way to the historic building that is Stormont for lunch (unfortunately

because of heavy snow a further eight couldn't make it) - a first for us! A good time was had by all and fortunately everyone made it home safely.

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy
125 Mill Road, Portstewart BT47 2QJ
☎ 028 7134 8337
✉ hoyschool@gmail.com

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor
☎ 0191 4137 185
✉ keithtaylor275@btinternet.com

On 13th December fifteen members met for this year's Christmas lunch at the Sea View Hotel, South Shields - a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.



Northumbria Branch

Coming up:

11th April: Lunch 1200-1230 The New Crown, Mowbray Road South Shields T&W NE33 3NG.

Also (as above) on the following date:
9th May.

West Riding

Contact: Terry Morley
☎ 0113 2667326

Coming up:

12th April: Lunch 1200-1230 The Queens Arms, (A61) 201 Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PT.

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491

Our Christmas lunch this year was held on 7th of December at the Bay Horse Inn Great Broughton. 27 members attended on a cold but dry day. All the ladies received a party bag of chocolates decorated by Doreen's grandchildren. The afternoon was full of friendly banter – thanks to everyone for making it a very enjoyable afternoon and especially to Ces and Doreen for organising it so well. (Ed: Great Photo!)



Teesside Branch

19th April: Lunch 1200-1230 The Cleveland Tontine, Staddlebridge, Northallerton, DL6 3GB.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton
☎ 01522 805 319
✉ Audrey.broug2@ntlworld.com

Coming up:

10th April: Lunch 1200-1230 The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Thurcroft, Rotherham, S66 9JA.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 4372072/0776 11006720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Numbers were reduced this year for various reasons and we could not meet minimum requirement for a room of our own at Cresta Court, our usual venue. As a result we joined with SPA at Sale Conservative Club on 4th December. This venue provided good food, ample parking, excellent service, a room of our own and cheap drinks - what's not to like! We were made very welcome by our SPA hosts and everyone who attended is looking forward to next year. Come and join us.

Coming up:

Manchester Branch have their usual monthly pub lunch on the second Monday of each month at 12:30. Contact Pat for details.

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall
☎ 01829 270 095
✉ normanwaterfall@talktalk.net

Our annual Christmas visit to the Forest Hills Hotel at Frodsham was enjoyed by twenty nine members and



North West - Western Branch

visitors. Our mid-December lunch had everyone in the Christmas spirit and was a good start to the festive season. Although Father Christmas didn't come all were given a small gift.

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett
☎ 01384 833 132
✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

Our Christmas Lunch this year was once again held at Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley, on Wednesday 14th December 2017, and was attended by 42 members and guests. Our numbers were up on last year but like most Branches we are seeing depleted numbers at functions due to the age of the remaining members who find it impossible to travel far from home! Just wish there was an answer to this so that more could enjoy an afternoon out with old colleagues. Our meal this year was far below their normal standards and we were put into their restaurant not their function room which meant there was very little room to move from the tables or for the staff to serve our meals. A verbal complaint was made at the time and a formal letter of complaint has been sent to them for which we await a reply. As there was another party in the restaurant which were very loud



North Midlands Branch

there was a lack of atmosphere. My apologies go to all our members and guest who attended and we will endeavour to look elsewhere for this 2018. Following on from lunch we had our usual Christmas Raffle with some prizes supplied by members and guests and others being purchased out of club funds which are raised by members and guests at raffles held during the year. Many thanks go to them for their support.

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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

Coming up:

4th April: Skittles. The Squirrel, Alverly Nr. Bridgnorth.

June: Carvery Lunch at Bodenham Arboretum & Earth Centre Wolverley, Kidderminster DY11 5SY.

16th July: 5 day Coach Holiday to Skegness. If you are interested, contact Frank or Carol.

August: Lunch and Bowls at Cookley Village Hall.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

✉ malcolmbury@btinternet.com

Another successful year of Branch activities was rounded off in style with our annual Christmas lunch at Berkhamsted Golf Club. This major social event and reunion of the year was attended by 80 members and guests who enjoyed an excellent meal in the convivial company of old friends and colleagues. We were again pleased to welcome Colin Hill, our Club Secretary, as our guest. Menu choices, table plans and overall organisation of the day was co-ordinated in his usual superb fashion by Malcolm Bury. Following comments at last year's AGM, our popular raffle was reinstated and raised the magnificent sum of £500 which the Branch has donated to the Pepper Foundation, a local Berkhamsted charity that provides home nursing support to children with terminal or life-limiting illnesses. We



South Midlands Branch

shall be returning to the Golf Club again on Friday 14th December for our 2018 Christmas lunch.

After lunch, at our customary brief AGM (the 36th for the Branch!) our Chairman, Ken Longhurst, and the current Committee were all unanimously re-elected. In his closing remarks Ken said that he looked forward to another busy year of activities and hoped that these would enjoy the usual strong support of Branch members.

Coming up:

Wednesday 16th May: pub lunch at the Golden Eagle, Chesham Road, Ashley Green HP5 3PW from noon onwards. Brian Lovell (tel: 01442 822214) is organising this one.

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

☎ 01206 867947

✉ peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

Our Christmas lunch held on December 14th at Langdon Hills Golf Club was a great success, 80 members and guests attended and



Chelmsford Branch

had good food of a wide choice, served by helpful staff and to end the lunch a very good raffle with wide choice of prizes.

Coming up:

We have a full programme of lunches this year:

23rd April: AGM at the Langdon Golf Club.

11th June: Oysterfleet Hotel.

3rd September: Beauvoir Italian restaurant.

4th October: Orsett Hall Hotel.

13th December: Langdon Hills Golf Club.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

☎ 01473 219860

✉ rosemary.grayston@sky.com

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

☎ 01473 610 534

✉ davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

The Christmas lunch was held at the Rushmere Golf Club when 38 members and guests attended a most enjoyable lunch. There was an abundance of quality raffle prizes, a total of over 40 almost one for each person attending.



Ipswich Branch

Coming up:

10th April: Lunch at The Ski Lodge Ipswich.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

☎ 01485 540346

✉ tomcannon36@gmail.com

Coming up:

10th April: Carvery lunch at the Foldgate Inn, Stradsett.

5th July: Finger Buffet at the Sandringham Social Club.

South Wales

Viv Perry writes:

✉ viv.perry1@btinternet.com

In South Wales, as in many parts of the country, social clubs like the 44 Club Branches developed but with the passing of time membership fell away. In South Wales the 44 Club meetings were organised by former BP Retail Area Manager Viv Howells until a few years ago. Ill health took its toll on Viv and without anyone

able to take this on, the meetings stopped. Viv died earlier this year and our sincere condolences and thoughts go to his wife Gaynor.

I have returned to South Wales because I missed Pembrokeshire so much - so here we are again - the 'Grandparents by-the-Sea'. I thought it would be good to get a South Wales branch up and running once again. I was pleased to find that regular meetings of ex SMBP Drivers take place with bi-monthly meetings at Skewen Rugby Club and they recently had a great Christmas lunch at 'The Tower Hotel' Jersey Marine. These meetings are organized by two BP colleagues Brian Cooper and Huw Thomas and have been taking place for 25 years! There was a strong camaraderie between the drivers working from Swansea, Haverfordwest and throughout the South West Wales area. Their next meetings are on 30 April, 25 June, 24 Sept. and 26 November. In hoping to establish a South Wales 44 Club Branch we do not want to clash with the drivers' events so we plan to meet bi-monthly on the months drivers do not gather so the plan is to come together in May, July, Sept. - this will, of course, be the subject of discussion.

Unfortunately this magazine comes out after the first Branch meeting we have organised for 21st March but I hope to report on it in time for the next edition. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join us in the revived Branch - all will be welcome!

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin
 ☎ 0117 9684 638/ 07748787392
 📧 rogergamlin@aol.com

The Greater Bristol Branch held its (brief) AGM and Christmas Lunch on Tuesday, December 5th 2017 once again at The Henbury Golf Club in Bristol. Our guest of honour was our National Secretary, Colin Hill, who we were delighted to see. Our numbers were up on last year which was pleasing. There was plenty of time to chat with old colleagues and

wander down memory lane. Many photographs were on display plus other items of memorabilia. Colin sang for his supper with a short, stirring speech. The raffle organised by Bert and Maureen Baseley contributed £101 to our branch funds. The current committee was voted en block to continue for another year under the leadership of Roger Gamlin.

Coming up:

It is our intention to hold another 4 events during 2018.

Bournemouth and Southampton

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker
 ☎ 01425 837285
 📧 tonyrp456@gmail.com
 5 Paget House, Grove Place,
 Upton Lane, Nursling, Southampton
 SO16 0AQ

On 13 December we held our Christmas Lunch at The Carpenters Arms, Bransgore. We enjoyed a very good turnout on a very grey day and our spirits were lifted by the delicious food. We were treated to some fine traditional home cooked Christmas cuisine and the Carpenters Arms certainly pulled the stops out with everyone enjoying the festivities. The size of the portions was such that no one went home hungry! After the meal we were able to have a free draw due to small excess gained over the last two years. This turned out to be a bit of fun with everyone going homeward bound clutching their prize. From the comments received afterwards, it seemed everyone enjoyed themselves and is certainly a possibility for another function.

Coming up:

9th May: Spring Lunch at The New Forest Pub, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst.

East Kent

Contact: Bernard Smith
 ☎ 01227 262 775
 📧 tessdale2004@hotmail.com

Coming up:

12th July: 11.30 for 12.00. The Wagon and Horses, Faversham Road, Charing Hill, Kent.

Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Charles Richards
 ☎ 01892 528 231
 📧 cajrichards@yahoo.co.uk
 See under East Kent.

Guildford, Kingston & London West

Contact: John Burton
 ☎ 020 8977 3732
 📧 john_a_burton@talk21.com

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,
 27 Elm Ave, Ruislip, HA4 8PE
 ☎ 020 8866 8452
 📧 gretalon@gmail.com

Coming up:

24th May: lunch 12.30 p.m. Miller & Carter (Leefe Robinson, VC) Brockhurst Corner, Uxbridge Road, Harrow, HA3 6DL (T: 020 8954 6781) Plenty of parking. Near Harrow & Wealdstone Stn. Buses from Harrow Station. Contact Greta.

Ed: Many thanks to all Branches. We have had contributions from all but three of our Branches for this edition including very good news from South Wales!

Thank you

Your Letters

Memories of Hemel Hempstead

The article on SMBP's move into computers gave me great pleasure as I was in the thick of it.

Around 1958, another acquisition from the world of IT, Dick Paine, and I plodded round SMBP finding out how it ticked over. In due course, I wrote a report published in January 1961 which resulted in the decision to buy Leo computers. I still have a copy. It was overoptimistic (as most reports about computers have been ever since) but it did the trick. It so happened that IBM did not have the right size of machine at the time while ICL had a reasonable offering but Leo, despite being a small company, impressed us most with their machine and their people.



I also designed the sales accounting system with some helpful tweaks from our Leo consultant.

The new computer department moved from no 1 Kingsway to Hemel in March 1963. I was chief programmer and George Jennings was chief planning officer. Our boss, Brian Bowden, was quite the best I have ever known and an inspiration to all.

(As an aside Hemel's famous 'magic roundabout', near to us, opened at the same time with the proverbial little old ladies trying to drive the wrong way around it.)

Predictably it took longer than planned for our Leo to go live. For



AT HEMEL HEMPSTEAD THERE'S A WILDCAT'S CRADLE OF NYLON WIRE CALLED THE 'CENTRAL PROCESSOR'. THIS IS THE HEART OF THE MOST ADVANCED COMMERCIAL COMPUTING SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY. A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO US BUT APPARENTLY NOT TO THE 800 STAFF INVOLVED - - - -

example the Customer master record program took around 120 test runs before it worked. Even then there were glitches. The most memorable was the failure to read the record of Elstree Rural District council which was eventually found to reveal a design fault in Leo's memory. A weekend's work fixed that. Leo had resident engineers on site who did a great job of keeping the machines running and also supplied a mean Pina Colada.



In the air-cooled, dust-free Computer Room, JIM HITCHEN performs on the £2,000,000 Univac 1108 (he also doubles on jazz drums)...

In due course, there was another upheaval when our two Leo3s were shipped to Wythenshawe to be replaced by Leo 326s which were twice as fast. It was sad that Leo did not have the resources to produce the next generation of computers - hence the arrival of Univac. However I had the great good fortune to have been turned into a bookie by then, running SMBP's management accounts. So I watched the trauma from afar

and wrote little notes for my boss, Vic Upton, to explain to the SMBP Board that it was not our fault that everything was taking so long

M C Hancock
Pilgrim Cottage
Church Road
Little Gaddesden
Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 1NZ

Kennings

I was interested to read the account of SMBP's special relationship with Kennings which brought back memories of my first job in Shell-Mex House in 1970 as a member of Group Retail Planning. My task was to recommend a new rebate and small load surcharge policy for dealer-owned sites. Kennings' 'most favoured nation' terms dictated the level of rebate we could go up to. Indeed, I still have a copy of the memos, exchanged between J.A Riddell-Webster, who was Director and General Manager Retail, Eric Westray who was Kennings Liaison and Bill Charlton of Central Retail Trade. Even more interesting are the exchanges of correspondence between John Greenborough, Chairman of SMBP, and Riddell-Webster suggesting that our proposed rebate structure and small load surcharge had been discussed with Esso! The new structure was introduced in the spring of 1971, five years after the Monopolies Commission Report which dictated that there must be a maximum of five years for a dealer contract.

David Willis
The Mount,
Perry Hill,
Worplesdon,
Surrey, GU3 3RB

Ted Hawkes

Ted Hawkes, who has died at the age of 94, was the mainstay of SMBP's Aviation Dept. He was in right at the beginning of the development of London Heathrow as a major commercial airport in the 1950s. He was first to see the necessity of introducing a comprehensive aircraft re-fuelling facility at these newly created hubs – a very different prospect than the hitherto SMBP traditional customers such as flying clubs and small regional airports. Ted obtained advantageous agreements for Heathrow with the



Air Ministry for storage sites and for operating re-fuelling tankers. Although not at the head of SMBP's Aviation Dept there was little doubt that he in effect ran the department at a time of massive increase in demand for aviation fuel.

The formation of the British Airports Authority in 1966 provided Ted with a more commercially tuned opponent - he was more than a match for them. Over the years methods of re-fuelling aircraft changed to a system of hydrants as did changes in locations of storage sites on airports. The emergence of Gatwick as a major airport required major aviation fuel storage and with Ted ahead of the game, SMBP established a rail fed site which was used by other companies to the profit of SMBP. On Brand Separation, he joined BP as Aviation Manager. Ted was one to whom SMBP owed much and joins a group of SMBP stalwarts such as Jack Beddington, George Llewellyn and George Richardson all of whom punched above their weight.

David Roberts
11 Hillside Way
Withdean, Brighton BN1 5FE

Authorised Distributors

I greatly enjoyed reading Cliff Quarrell's article in the winter issue of the magazine. It brought back many happy memories of my time spent being involved with the Distributor markets. There are still a few of the



old names about. In the south west we still have Mitchell and Webber (and Roy Weedon as a member of our club) and Tinkells - both now operate as independents.

(Ed: The AD was always an interesting branding hybrid. The local name was important – not least in the Agricultural market where ADs often also sold a wide range of other



farming goods and services. But the endorsement of SMBP (or Shell or BP) for the oil and (especially) the lubricants products was crucial. It was Win-Win because SMBP got the benefit from the local name and the AD got the benefit from SMBP's national/global brands. Mitchell and Webber is clearly proud of their SMBP connections as their website

features these historic pictures).

Maurice Husbands.
6 Kewstoke Road,
Stoke Bishop,
Bristol, BS9 1HB

A varied Life in Oil

Two items of particular interest caught my eye in the latest 44 Club News - the letter from Roy Fielder in 'Birthday Thanks' and the reference to the Harcal boilers in the article 'Kennings and Shell-Mex and BP'.

The potential for various employments within the SMBP Group is what Roy highlights with pride. I am similarly proud to have been variously employed in different related Companies, the difference between us being a 3 year break of service after my 4 years as an Apprentice Deck Officer with **Shell Tankers** which began in 1950. At the end of my apprenticeship, I left Shell Tankers to progress through with qualifications to become a Deck Officer. A year later, unhappy with this chosen profession I retired from the sea.

Following two years National Service, in the Royal Air Force, I joined **National Benzole** temporarily at their Croydon Depot and then was moved to Lubricants Department in Wigmore Street, London until the new offices for National Benzole in Knightsbridge were opened. I later became a Commercial Rep in the Gravesend Area, based on Hanger Green Divisional Office.

After National Benzole I was transferred to **Shell-Mex and BP** Heating and Agriculture as an Estates Developer Rep based at Maidstone office. Some time later I became a District Heating Negotiator and was then posted to Shell Mex House until Brand Separation. **BP's** new office building at Victoria Street was my new location for the next ten years until retirement, variously in Systems, Consultancy and Administration Departments.

I look back over the 30 or so years with various SMBP, Shell and BP

continued on page 14

companies which are engraved on the plaque of my 30 year service gift, with many happy memories and always surrounded by so many friendly colleagues.

And the Harcal 430 boiler? While in H&A Maidstone they gave me and fitted in my home a prototype Harcal down-firing pressure jet boiler, along with combustion test equipment, to run and report monthly its operational details. This boiler was a dream - quiet, with a smooth start up and trouble free. After a while it was replaced with a pre-production version which, if my memory is accurate, was much the same as its predecessor. Later this was replaced with a production version, to keep. This, sadly, was a different beast; noisy, particularly at start-up which used to shake the chimney when lighting from cold. I think it lasted no more than two years when the water jacket suffered a leak which a commercial welding company was unable to repair. I replaced it with a balanced flue gas boiler. So in addition to my other varied roles I was a central heating boiler Guinea Pig!

*Derek Brown,
11 The Fairway,
Newton Ferrers,
Plymouth, PL8 1DW*

Computing in SMBP

The Members of our Reunion Group can tell the History of Computing in Shell Mex and BP. The stars of the story are the Computers but there are also many personal stories of the many pioneers in Computing. Key to their development was the decision early on in the project to offer



Aptitude Tests to the existing staff and that is how I made the journey from a Clerk at Partington Terminal in 1963, to Hemel Hempstead, then Wythenshawe, then back to Hemel and finally to Wythenshawe as one of the Shell staff taking over the Computer Centre in 1974-5. Ken Longhurst, Peter Hunt, and I have arranged two reunions of staff involved with the LEO III Computers in Hemel Hempstead and Wythenshawe. They have taken place in Redditch which has served as a half-way house. As a result I have a large amount of memorabilia and photographs which may be of use for a future Article in the Magazine. Other individuals in our group have their own memorabilia and many are still available to give personal stories.

I have only recently suggested to Peter and Ken that it could be time for Redditch III and should we go ahead it would make a good feature for the Magazine. In addition the Leo Appreciation Society is trying to record the experiences of former LEO staff and they may be interested as well.

The photo shows me sitting at the console of III/14 along with then late Jim Hitchen (Bearded) , the late Jim Smith (next to Jim) and Dave Smith. The year was probably 1964.

(Ed: Thanks Bryan. We love memorabilia and sometimes even return it so yes please! And if anyone else in your group or elsewhere has 'stuff' relating to computing in SMBP do please get in touch. I would be delighted to cover 'Redditch III' subject to the Ale being Real and generously available. With Ken's involvement this should be assured...)

*Bryan Clarke
63 Lyndhurst Avenue
Hazel Grove
Stockport SK7 5LT*

Ian Palmer-Lewis

The passing of Ian Palmer-Lewis came as a shock to me when I read his obituary in the recent 44 Club News. It took me back many years into the mid-eighties when Ian joined

us in the Scottish Retail Management team. He arrived via the Commercial Division, and often commented how ill prepared he felt, facing up to Shell Retailers, who following years of growth and prosperity were having to contend with severe competition from Supermarkets and other brands. This had an obvious impact on margins, and they were not happy.

Ian's transition into the role of Regional Manager was not easy, taking over from Gordon Hunter, - a very different character who had known his customers extremely well and was retiring following a long career in the job.

Ian then demonstrated his strengths and personality, to successfully integrate into the role. He was calm under pressure, with a good sense of humour, and an ability to provide a platform for discussion and negotiation. I enjoyed working with him, it was a pleasure. My condolences go out to Hilary and his family.

(Ed: Those years in the 1980s were not easy in Scotland. Along with Ian (Retail) and Dick Hiseman (Distribution) I was a member of the Marketing Coordination team, representing Commercial, under David Soames's Chairmanship. The miners' strike brought immense challenges as did the difficult economic environment. I remember Ian being a stalwart, if understated, colleague. He was very different from his predecessor but with a style which turned out to be right for the times. He was an excellent team player. RIP.)

*Geoff Wragg,
9 Howard Close
Thorpe Willoughby
North Yorkshire*

Birthday Thanks

Both here and in the 'Your Letters' feature we print the letter writers' addresses. We do this because we are told that many who appear are contacted by old friends with whom they have lost touch and are delighted that this happens. However in these more feverish times we appreciate that some of you may prefer not to give your contact details. If that is your preference we will of course respect it and publish the letter without these details. Please keep the letters coming – they are at the heart of the magazine. Any format is welcome. Typed, hand-written, Email – even Carrier Pigeon. We love hearing from you.



75th My wife Angela and I will be having a few friends round on the day. The following week we are off on a cruise with P and O. Upon our return we will be re commissioning our own boat and hopefully enjoying a wonderful summer on the Avon and Severn rivers. A bonus of a free TV licence is one of the many gifts that make my 75 years (19 of which with SMBP/Shell) a time to reflect on the pleasures of retirement.

*Andrew Mabbett
7 Ewloe Close
Kidderminster DY10 1YJ*

81st I am still reasonably fit and manage with my wife Janet to walk to the village and back three times a week - a round trip of about two and a half miles. I also try and fit in two rounds of golf, weather permitting. My regards to all old friends and colleagues wherever they may be.

*Lionel Reece
1 Bosley Drive
Poynton
Cheshire SK12 1UX*

83rd I am still working – not on HGV, as I used to with SMBP, but on local haulage. My licence expired in June 2016 but after favourable doctors' reports, eye reports etc. the DVLC has now, after a gap of 18 months, sent me a new HGV PSV licence!

*Brian K Morris
163 Robin Hey
Moss Side
Leyland PR26 7UR*

83rd Can I really be 83 already? Well it is just a number, and as I can still play lots of tennis and do mountain

walks, I hope to make more numbers yet! Reading the 44 Club News, I just wish we had a Spanish branch, I envy all those outings that the groups are enjoying.

*Margaret Bulle
(ex-Southern Computer Centre
Hemel Hempstead)*

85th It is always nice to be remembered ! I am passably fit still, thanks to my wife's strict supervision!

*Martin Spankie
1 Carlton Street
Woking GU21 4HH*

85th On return from my recent trip to the U.K. I found amongst my mail a birthday card for my 85th. It is great to be remembered. I thank all who work within the 44 Association for doing such a wonderful job of keeping us in mind. I have good memories of Eddie Morton's Distributor Trade team of OPIs (Operation Procedure Inspectors) looking after Distributors in Scotland Argyle & Bute Oils, C.S.C. Fuels Ltd., Gleaner Oils Ltd., John Mitchel for Oils Ltd. and Wilson for Oils.

This cold spell I experienced during my U.K. visit reminded me of the splendid job these Distributors did during the harsh winter months in keeping deliveries going to homes and hospitals in the lesser populated areas and islands of Scotland. During Brand Separation Distributors had to be carefully decided between Shell and B.P. on the 60/40 basis. Not an easy task.

Now I am back in Australia its 38C is warming me up after experiencing -10C in Scotland! Although I am widowed now I am active painting and

being looked after by close family and new friends.

*A.O. (Sandy) Hogg
16 The Rise
Woodvale Western Australia, 6026*

86th The arrival of the 44 Club News a few days ago was a useful reminder that I had not written to express my appreciation for the birthday greetings received on my 86th birthday at the end of last November. I am most grateful for this regular remembrance that in turn reminds me of happy days working with Frank Simpkins, initially in Bottogas Ltd. Then with him and others for a short time in Distribution Dept SMBP before a transfer to the BP Research Centre and subsequently to Nigeria as Operations Manager, BP Supergas (Nigeria) Ltd.

*Bram Hill
25 Larcombe Close
Croydon CR0 5SR*

89th We are so lucky to have the 44 Club and are grateful to all volunteers who work so hard to keep it going. It was good to see Shell-Mex House on the card – so much of the old London skyline has disappeared.



SHELL-MEX HOUSE

continued on page 16

BIRTHDAY THANKS

(Ed: This is the famous painting by Henry Rushbury of Shell-Mex House at the time of its opening in 1932).

*Laura Hoskins
7 Dunster Close
Minehead TA24 6GY*

89th Golly how time goes! It is always brings back fond memories of yesteryear, whilst still in your memory, have often become pushed well to the back by current events etc. I have very pleasant thoughts of the old days whilst working in H.O. My best wishes to all who can remember me.

*Lawrence Townsend
2 Eastdon Cottages
Orchard Lane
Eastdon
Starcross EX6 8RL*

93rd The weather has been glorious in Devon today, so we went out for lunch and enjoyed the sunshine. Both of us keep well, and still enjoy going to The Bridge Club at least twice a week. Fortunately our family live within reasonable distance so we are kept on our toes!

*John A. Nowill.
1 Ansteys Close
Wellswood
Torquay TQ1 2QP*

94th I'm writing on behalf of my father Maldwyn Clements. Dad has asked

that I pass onto the 44 Club his thanks for the birthday card he received for his 94th birthday and to update you of his change of address and circumstances. Dad had a fall in June of last year and is now living in a nursing home near to me. We live in the county of Devon and Dad is just over the border in North Somerset. We visit daily taking our dogs along with us. If any of your members wish to contact him, please feel free to pass on my contact details.

*Barbara Slade
barbara.slade@icloud.com*

97th Thank you. It is such a kind thought from old SMBP friends but I feel it's under false pretences as it was Eric my husband who worked for SMBP/Shell and I was merely his wife. In the last year an ex-employee Chrissie Eldridge (a secretary in London I think) has moved down here and she keeps a good eye on me.

*Beryl Westray
19 Milford Court
Milford-On-Sea
Lymington
Hants SO4 0WF*

(Ed: I don't think anyone was 'merely a wife' Mrs Westray, least of all you! The higher up the echelons of the company chaps got the more important the support of the spouse! Dinners to attend, hands to shake ...! Many of

us remember Eric Westray with great affection and respect. You were a great partnership.)

100th I am sorry that I forgot to inform you that I was 100 years young on December 19th 2017. Unfortunately I was plagued by the bug that was going around. I was very taken by the latest 44 Club News and the stories of the Computer Centre at Hemel. I was supervisor of the 'punch' room and have many happy memories.

(Ed: We hope that you have shaken off the bug Iris and many congratulations in joining the ex SMBP 100+ club! It has quite a few members. As a surprise please see below!)

*Iris Robinson
34 Glenwoods
Newport Pagnell
Bucks MK16 ONB*

Thanks also received from: N.Murrell, Martin Rush (87), Irene and Dennis Parker, Ernie Lakey (thanks for the donation!), Irene Hawksbee (88), Alice Brown (81), John Emms (80), Bill Wright, M. Baker, Frank McIntyre (89), Eileen Readman (83), Jackie Ford (87), Anne Groves, Mavis Humphries, Wilfred Sephton (81), Ernie Choules (86), Steve Ensor (75), Ian Purches (81), David Yorke (81), Mike Holland (87).

Iris Robinson at 100

Iris Robinson became another SMBP centenarian on 19th December 2017! To mark the event the local Newport Pagnell Community Magazine 'Phonebox' wrote a story about her. We are grateful to the Editor for permitting us to publish an edited version of her story:

Iris was born to a local family in Newport Pagnell in 1917. Her mother belonged to the Church of England so Iris and her sister Winnie regularly attended the 7.30 communion service at St Peter and St Paul's Church in the town.

Iris' father decided to join the Salvation Army when Iris was 14 and the whole family became Salvationists. She loved the 'Army' approach to living, preaching and helping people so much that in 1936 she entered William Booth College, Denmark Hill. She was commissioned in the



Albert Hall by General Evangeline Booth and sent as a Probationary Lieutenant to Attleborough in Norfolk. At a children's Christmas service they became aware that two small children had received no gifts. They were living in a caravan, their mother had TB and their father was unable to find work so he'd explained to them that Father Christmas had run out of presents that year. After the service Iris and another officer visited the baker and asked his rather spoilt son to donate one of his brand new toys (which to Iris' surprise he did) and they asked around the Corps and found a doll for the little girl. The baker also gave them a meat pie and the greengrocer gave them some vegetables. They were then able to deliver a bit of festive cheer to the family. Iris is still in contact with friends from the Salvation Army and praises the

work they do and her time with them. Iris looked about for work and started as a cashier at Woolworths in Newport Pagnell. She transferred to London and eventually became head cashier at the Woolworth's store in Oxford Street. Later she joined Shell-Mex and BP Ltd in Shell-Mex House in The Strand.

In the 1950s J. Lyons & Co produced the first commercial computer and in 1963, when Shell-Mex and B.P. acquired a LEO III, Iris was retrained on data input. Although she was assured that, as a Supervisor, she would never need to be able to actually read the tape she insisted on learning. This stood her in good stead when she transferred to SMBP's computer centre in Hemel Hempstead as a Supervisor in the 'Punch Room'. If there was an error she was able to identify the problem – often

not an inputting mistake at all but a blob on the tape!

Iris really enjoyed her time at Shell Mex and B.P. in Hemel and her staff obviously enjoyed working with her because when she retired they couriered a real orchid from the Savoy Hotel for her. They knew it was something she had always wanted!

On retirement Iris eventually settled permanently again in Newport Pagnell - she never lost her faith and returned to worship at St Peter & St Paul's. She joined the Mother's Union in 1988, serving on the committee four times and was in the Home Communion Team for fourteen years. She also took communion to residents of Castlemead until last December.

Wedding Anniversaries

Platinum

Paddy and Margaret Rutledge
(pictured below)
Clover Cottage
Wickhurst Road
Weald
Sevenoaks
TN14 6LX
23rd December 2017



Paddy and Margaret Rutledge



Golden

Norman and Annette Burgess
44 Broadsands Avenue
Paignton
Devon
TQ4 6JN
30th March 2018

Graham and Barbara Chant
112 Rushetts Road
Langley Green
Crawley
RH11 7NQ
23rd March 2018

Chris & Gillian Barclay
12 Richmond Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS6 7RH
16th March 2018

Sapphire

Tom and Rita Burrows
33 Cadnam Drive
Manchester
M22 5AT
24th March 2018

Les and Gill Bater
(pictured below)
20a Halland Way
Northwood
HA6 2AG
12th May 2018



Les and Gill Bater

Obituaries

We regret to report the deaths of the following members. Our condolences are sent to their families, friends and past colleagues.

ALLEN (92). Mr John Allen of Keston died on 26th November 2017. He was Manager, International Fuels, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1985 after 29 years.

BARNES (99). Mrs Annabel Barnes of Ulceby died on 13th November 2017.

BLOOR (87). Mrs Joyce Bloor of Hesketh Bank died on 3rd November 2017. She was Senior Operations Assistant at Barton Lubricants Plant when she left group service in 1988 after 19 years.

BONDS (82). Mr John Bonds of Farnham died on 14th November 2017. He worked for Shell in the Finance function with postings in Thailand, Norway, London and The Hague.

BOWNASS (84). Mrs Grace Bownass of Lichfield died on 16th December 2017. She was the wife of Mr Harry Bownass, once Manager Retail Development Centre, Coventry.

BRETT (85). Mrs Jill Brett of Harwich died on 20th December 2017. She was in Secretarial Services, Eastern Division, Ipswich when she left group service in 1963 after 7 years.

BUGBY (99). Mr Arthur Bugby of Chester-le-Street died on 6th October 2017.

BULLOCK (77). Mr Peter Bullock of Bracknell died on 7th January 2018. He was Shift Manager, Heathrow Airport when he left group service in 1992 after 25 years.

CADLE (87). Mr Ivor Cadle of Thame has died. He was a Driver at Thame Terminal when he left group service in 1985 after 25 years.

CARTER (77). Mrs Judith Carter of King's Lynn died on 31st December 2017. She was the wife of Mr Reginald Carter once a Driver at King's Lynn.

CHAMBERS (69). Mrs Linda Chambers of Bridlington died on 2nd January 2018. She was a Senior Operations Assistant at Gatwick Airport when she left group service. She was the wife of her surviving husband, Keith Chambers whose career included time at Teesport and Shell-Mex House.

CHARTER (90). Mr John Charter of Huntingdon died on 19th November 2017. He was a Driver at Buncefield Terminal when he left group service in 1991 after 18 years.

CLAYDEN (86). Mr Albert Clayden of Belper has died. He was Driver at Purfleet when he left group service in 1981 after 27 years.

COTTAM (95). Mr A G J Cottam of Stratford-upon-Avon has died. He was F&A Manager, Midland Region, Birmingham when he left group service in 1974 after 21 years.

CREECH (85). Mrs Margaret Creech of Retford, formerly of Beaumaris, died on 20th January 2018. She was Expediting Supervisor, Shell UK Materials, Wilmslow when she left group service in 1990 after 19 years.

DUFFY (94). Miss Kathleen Duffy of Hassocks died on 26th October 2017. She was an Administrative Assistant, BP House, Victoria when she left group service in 1982 after approx. 20 years.

ELY (88). Mr Jack Ely of Inverness has died. He was an Airfield Operator at Dalcross Airport, Inverness when he left group service in 1985 after 18 years.

FURNELL (94). Mrs M Furnell of Chester died on 12th November 2017. She was the wife of Mr J A Furnell, once a Driver at Stanlow Terminal.

GRAHAM (95). Mr George Graham of Epsom died on 28th December 2017. He was Manager, Retail Automation, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 19 years.

HARMES. Mrs Audrey Harmes of New Romney has died. She was the wife of Mr Paul Harmes, once a Driver at Buncefield.

HAWKES (94). Mr Edward Hawkes of Haslemere has died. He was General Manager – Sales, BP Victoria when he left group service in 1984 after 43 years. This was preceded by appointments within SMBP Aviation Dept. from the 1950s and continued in this role in BP on Brand Separation until his final appointment.

HOLLOWAY (91). Mrs Cynthia Holloway (nee Boffin) of Birmingham died on 11th January 2018. She was Office Services Supervisor, BP Oil Limited, Birmingham Regional Office when she left group service in 1982 after 29 years.

HOWELLS (89). Mr Stanley Howells of Sketty has died. He was BP Oil Territory Sales Supervisor, Retail, South Wales when he left group service in 1975 after 22 years.

HUGHES (83). Mr Brian Hughes of Woodhall Spa died on 25th November 2017. He worked for Shell UK at Shell Haven Terminal when he left group service in 1992 after 31 years.

JARRETT (87). Mr John Jarrett of East Grinstead died in January 2018. He was Computer Project Leader, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1986 after 37 years.

KENNEDY (94). Mrs Muriel Kennedy of Knott End-on-Sea died on 14th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr Alan Kennedy, once a Commercial Market Representative in Bolton.

McEVOY (82). Mr James McEvoy of Chelmsford died on 18th December 2017. He worked in Retail, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1989 after 25 years.

MELLORS (83). Mr George Mellors of Wakefield died on 17th December 2017. He was Terminal Manager, Leeds when he left group service in 1988 after 31 years.

MOORE (90). Mr Dennis Moore of Bristol died on 6th February 2018. He was Administration Manager – Commercial, Shell UK Oil, Bristol Regional Office when he left group service in 1982 after 39 years.

MORAN (84). Mr Joseph Moran of Bolton died on 31st October 2017. He was Driver at Haydock when he left group service in 1987 after 19 years.

NEAL (89). Mr Raymond Neal of Braintree died on 16th January 2018. He was a Driver at King's Lynn when he left group service in 1982 after 34 years.

OSBORNE (85). Mrs Beryl Osborne of Dudley died on 18th November 2017. She was the wife of Mr Arthur Osborne, once a Driver at Warley Terminal.

PARRY (90). Mrs Betty Parry of Harrogate died on 16th September 2017. She was the wife of Mr Griffith Parry, once Accounts Supervisor, BP Oil, Leeds Regional Office.

PETRIE (73). Mr John Petrie of Winchester died on 2nd December 2017. He was Retail Area Business Adviser, South-East Region when he left group service in 1989 after 20 years.

PITWOOD (83). Mrs Rita Pittwood of West Molesey died on 14th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr Charles Pittwood, once a Driver at Wandsworth.

PLEWS (97). Mr Leslie Plews of Ilkley died on 28th December 2017. He was LPG Engineering Inspector, Manchester (Scottish & Northern) when he left group service in 1981 after 30 years.

PRITCHARD (88). Mr Terence Pritchard of Marston Moreteyne died on 16th January 2018. He was Section Head, Credit Administration, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1985 after 16 years.

RANDALL (91). Miss Ena Randall of Bourne End died on 31st December 2017. She was Payroll & Pensions Administrator, Slough Trading Estate when she left group service in 1981 after 41 years.

RIVINGTON (90). Mrs Edith Rivington of Helensburgh died on 16th November 2017. She was the wife of Mr Gervase Rivington, once Resident Manager, The Node Conference & Training Centre.

ROSE (89). Mrs Muriel Rose of Eccles died on 12th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr John Rose, once a Chargehand at Barton.

ROSS (69). Mrs Jill Ross (nee Pratt) of Hartley (Kent) died on 21st December 2017. She was a Telephonist at 195 Knightsbridge when she left group service in 1968 after 2 years.

ROTHWELL (86). Mrs Pamela Rothwell of Southampton died on 1st January 2018. She was the wife of Mr John Rothwell, once a Group 1 Operator at Hamble Terminal.

SHIPP (89). Mr George Shipp of Dersingham died on 20th January 2018. He was a Driver at King's Lynn when he left group service in 1982 after 32 years.

SMITH (95). Mr Philip Smith of Attleborough has died. He worked in Process Department, Isle of Grain when he left group service in 1982 after 30 years.

SMITH (83). Mr Richard Smith of Ipswich died on 31st July 2017. He was a Driver at Ipswich Terminal when he left group service in 1984 after 34 years.

SPIERS (92). Mr James Spiers of Falmouth died on 31st December 2017. He was a Superintendent at Falmouth when he left group service in 1982 after 31 years.

STEVENS (87). Mr Ian Stevens of Sleaford died on 30th November 2017. He was an Industrial Representative, Watford Regional Office when he left group service in 1982 after 24 years.

WATT (91). Mr William Watt of Cardiff died on 7th November 2017. He was a Driver at Newport when he left group service in 1976 after 30 years.

WELLS (78). Mrs Irene Wells of Bourne End died on 2nd January 2018. She worked in Retail Accounts, BP House, Hemel Hempstead when she left group service in 1973 after 19 years.

WHITE (98). Mr Ronald White of Blaydon-on-Tyne died on 14th February 2018. He was a Senior Airfield Operator at Newcastle Airport when he left group service in 1980 after 32 years.

WILLIAMS (73). Mr Ivor Williams of Watford died on 28th February 2017. He was Senior Financial Assistant, Shell-Mex House when he left group service after 25 years.

WILSON (84). Mrs Brenda Wilson of Malaga died on 12th January 2018. She was the wife of Mr B M Wilson once a Senior Industrial Representative, Leeds.

WOZENCRAFT (88). Mr Barry Wozencraft of Swansea died on 14th November 2017. He was a Tanker Driver at Swansea Depot when he left group service in 1987 after 18 years.

and Finally ...

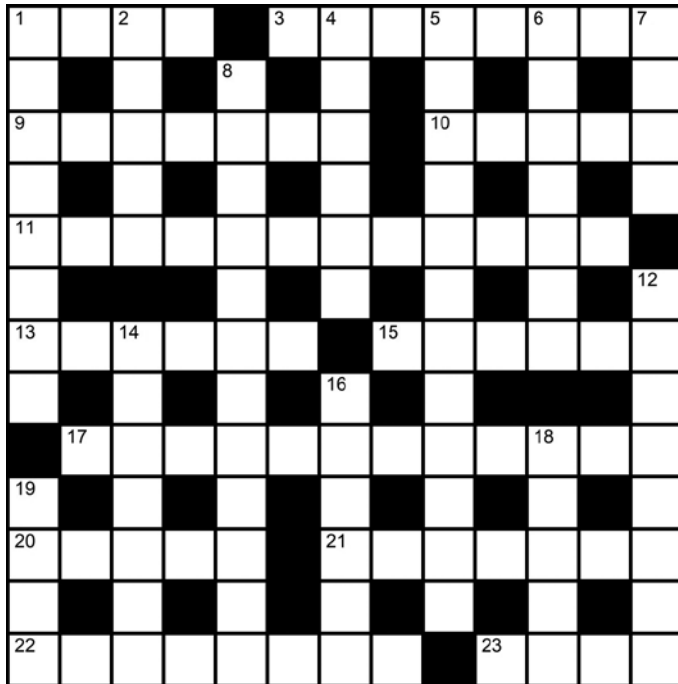


Quotable Quote

"I think that it is a wonderful thing that you can start at the bottom of the SMBP Group and get to the Board without being a specialist"

Frank Scott (pictured left) on retiring as an SMBP Director in 1969. He had joined BP as a clerk in 1924

Prize Crossword

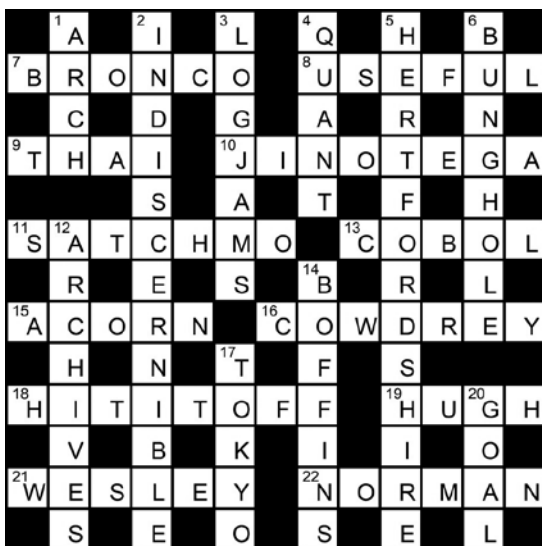


Across

- 1 London Art Gallery (4)
- 3 He is reviving South Wales Branch (3, 5)
- 9 Unit of Energy (7)
- 10 Nickname for a tall man? (5)
- 11 Flexible rulers (4,8)
- 13 Discount on the schedule price (6)
- 15 Home of Fuels Supplies (CI) (6)
- 17 Northumberland Branch Christmas Lunch venue (7,5)
- 20 Pamela, Who is British? (2,3)
- 21 Prices made and sold them (7)
- 22 100 Years young (8)
- 23 An imaginary line about which a body rotates. (4)

Down

- 1 Inclined to silence and reserved in speech (8)
- 2 Flower (especially from Amsterdam) (5)
- 4 Melting on the Poles ? (3,3)
- 5 Polymer often used for Low-density flexible foam (12)
- 6 The aircraft _____ at the hydrant (7)
- 7 A toy, or a Cellist ? (2-2)
- 8 Homo Sapiens in Neolithic times, for example (9,3)
- 12 Special lanes keep them safer on the road (8)
- 14 Inn which brews its own beer (7)
- 16 Modern fastener sometimes replaces a zip or buttons (6)
- 18 A teleprinter network (5)
- 19 Sound a cat makes (4)



Last Issue's Crossword

Six all-correct entries from which our brand new Univac computer chose Chris L'Estrange of Huddersfield as the winner. A 'collectible' copy of the 'Shell Guide to reading the landscape' on its way to you, Chris.

Closing date for next issue
4th May 2018